

**Tennessee
Department of
Correction**

1700 - 2009

**Historical
Timeline**

1700s

- 1796** Tennessee admitted to the Union
- 1799** Act passes providing the death penalty for horse stealing

1800s

- 1813** First act passes to raise money to build a central prison; no public support; concept fails
- 1819** Governor Joseph McMinn recommends that the state fund construction of a central prison; again no public support; concept fails
- 1829** Governor William Hall
Governor William Carroll
Act passes “to provide for building a public jail and penitentiary house in this State”; state funded
A five person Board of Inspectors (including the Governor and Secretary of State as ex officio members) is created
- 1831** Tennessee State Penitentiary (TSP) located just south of 7th Avenue and Broadway in Nashville, became operational for both men and women; 65 inmates employed by public works

1850s Inmates employed to build State Capitol

- 1850** Governor Isham G. Harris
TSP moves to Church Street
Governor given power of executive clemency

1863 Union Army takes over TSP to use as a military prison; all state prisoners were moved to Brushy Mountain

1865 Governor William Gannaway Brownlow
Legislature employs three directors to create and coordinate a convict leasing system

1870 Convict leasing system begins, leasing inmates to the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company; first work release program in the country

1871 Governor John Calvin Brown
Office of Superintendent of Prisons created

1873 Act passes for a new penitentiary for farming and mining at Brushy Mountain

1877 Governor James Davis Porter
Act passes ruling prison labor will not compete with free-world industry

1883 Governor William Brimage Bate
Act passes prohibiting over 550 men in one prison

All prisoners now given physical examinations upon entry into the system as provided by Legislative Act

1885 Act passes “to allow convicts good time in diminution of their sentences”

1890s Separate wing is built at TSP for female inmates; prior to this, male and female offenders were housed in the same unit

- 1891** Governor James Pierce Buchanan
Insurrection by miners protesting the use of free inmate labor in mines; free-world miners place inmate miners on train “out of town” causing the creation of the State Militia
- 1893** Convict leasing system is abolished
- 1895** Brushy Mountain Prison is built in Petros
- 1898** TSP moves to new location in Cockrill Bend; not over 20% of the total cost of the new prison was spent for materials purchased outside the State of Tennessee

The cost to house an inmate for one year was approximately \$117.48 (.32/day)
- 1899** Governor Benton McMillan

Legislature approves resolution temporarily housing federal inmates from Tennessee and surrounding states to generate income
- 1900s**
- 1900** New building for female inmates is opened within the walls of TSP
- 1902** Board of Prison Commissioners created by Legislature
- 1904** Suspension-by-thumbs abolished legislatively as a means of punishment for inmates
- 1905** Governor John Isaacs Cox

Behavior grading system initiated at Brushy
- 1907** Governor Malcolm Rice Patterson

Act passes to create a juvenile facility for boys
- 1908** One 10 year old and one 11 year old boy are committed to the state prison; each to serve 2-3 years for larceny and other related offenses
- 1911** Tennessee Reformatory for Boys in “Jordonia” opens, under Governor Ben Hooper, receiving 11-23 year old males for both determinate and indeterminate sentences

Board of three prison commissioners established by Governor Ben Hooper
- 1913** Act passes authorizing a parole system and indeterminate sentencing for adult offenders; act also changes death penalty from hanging to electrocution
- 1915** Governor Thomas Clarke Rye

State Reformatory for Girls is founded in Tullahoma by the Tennessee Federation of Women’s Clubs

Legislature creates State Board of Controls to manage penal, reformatory and charitable institutions
- 1916** First man electrocuted in Tennessee
- 1918** Tennessee Reformatory for Negro Boys is founded in Pikeville

State Reformatory for Girls receives its first girls

The cost to house an inmate for one year was approximately \$230.57 (.63/day)
- 1919** Governor Albert Houston Roberts

The State Board of Control is replaced by a Board for the Administration of State Institutions composed of the Governor, state treasurer, and general manager of state organizations

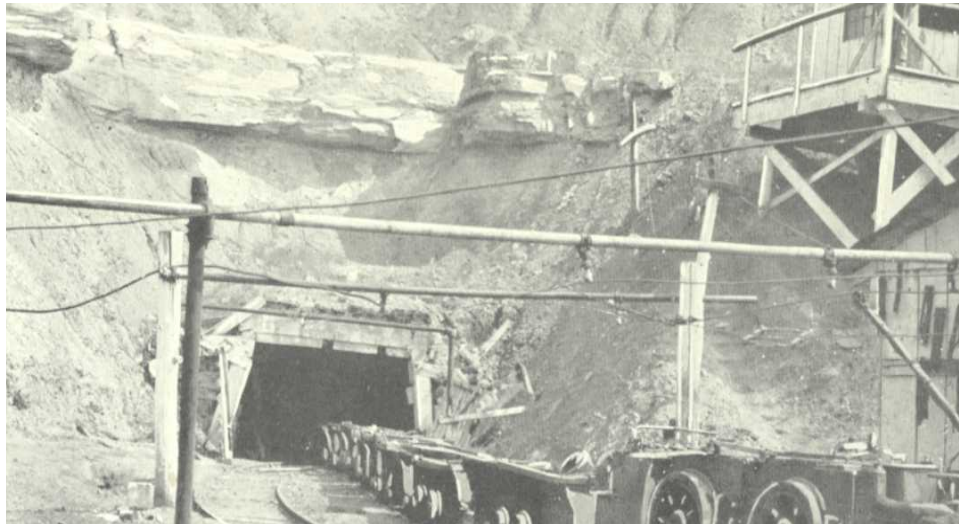


1902—Main Prison in Nashville



1897—State Prison Farm

1921	Governor Alfred Alexander Taylor State Vocation School for Colored Girls is founded in Nashville			The Administrative Reorganization Act is amended, creating the Department of Institutions and Public Welfare, including Confederate Soldier's Home, School for the Blind, School for the Deaf, Tennessee Industrial School at TSP, the Blind Commission, Clover Bottom Developmental Center, three regional psychiatric hospitals, and the Gailor Center
1923	Governor Austin Peay Commissioner Lewis S. Pope Administrative Reorganization Act passes placing the administration of penal, reformatory, and charitable institutions under the newly created Department of Institutions TSP contracts with State for inmates to make license plates			Act creates Board of Pardons and Paroles; appointments made by the Governor and the Board is chaired by Commissioner of DIPW
1927	Governor Henry H. Horton Commissioner Richard Lyle			U.S. Supreme Court rules "no sale of prison-made products to other states for profit" and Tennessee enacts legislation in accordance
1928	Shelby County Penal Farm is founded as a minimum security facility	1938		Fort Pillow State Penal farm is founded as a medium security farming facility in Lauderdale County, West Tennessee, to separate first-time offenders from the rest of the prison population
1929	Act creates the Advisory Board of Pardons			
1930	New building for adult female offenders is built, physically separate from TSP, but still on its grounds and administratively dependent	1939		Governor Prentice Cooper Comissioner Andrew T. Taylor Habitual Criminal Act passes World War II - Private industry used prison labor The Department of Institutions and Public Welfare is divided into two departments: Department of Institutions and Department of Public Welfare
1931	Advisory Board of Pardons creates a system for parole eligibility			
1933	Governor Harry Hill McAllister Commissioner Edwin W. Cocke, M.D. Legislature creates an Industrial Division of the Department of Institutions			
1933	New Brushy Mountain Prison is being built in Petros	1941		Commissioner W. O. Baird, MD
1936	Commissioner Barton Brown	1945		Governor Jim Nance McCord Commissioner W. O. Baird, MD
1937	Governor Gordon Browning Commissioner George Cate, Sr.	1951		Boys' Reformatories became State Training and Agriculture Schools



1922—Brushy Mountain coal Mine

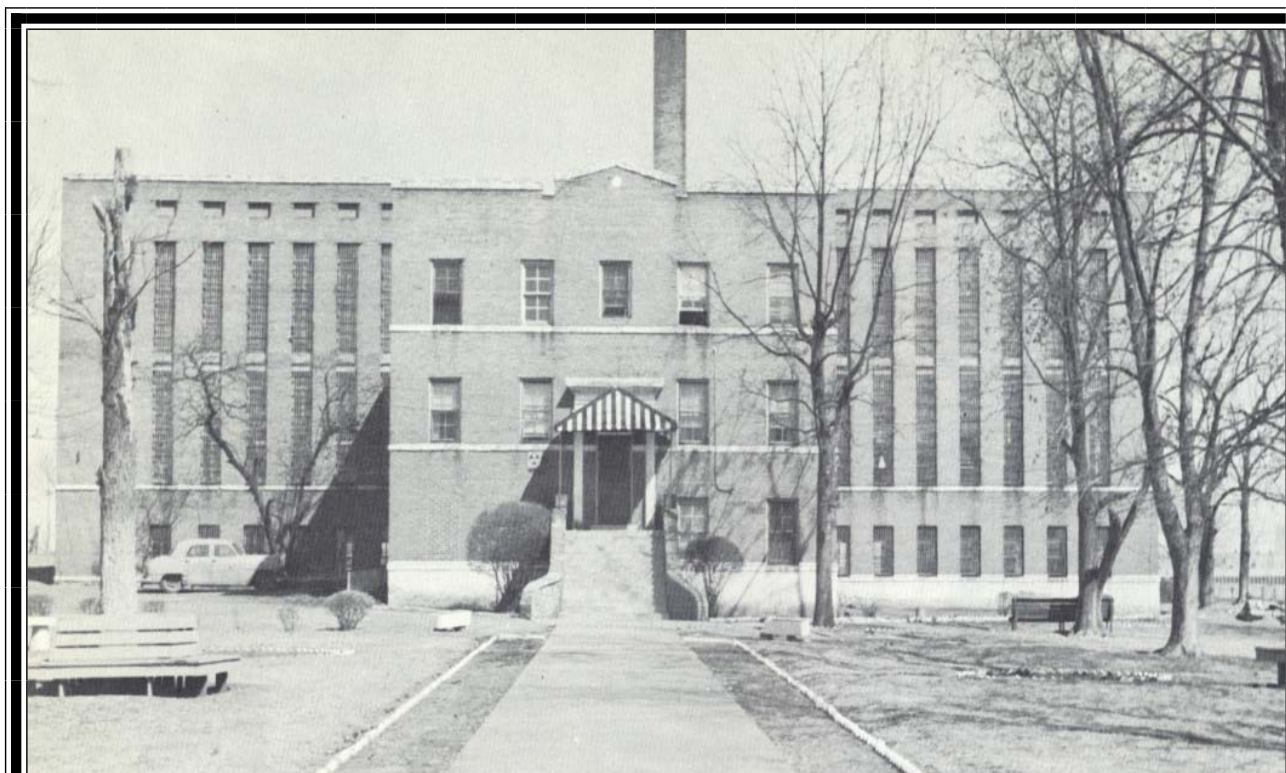


1922—Tennessee State Penitentiary

1953	Governor Frank Goad Clement Commissioner Keith Hampton Responsibility for mental health facilities is transferred from the Department of Institutions to form the Department of Mental Health	Services; provides for an Assistant Commissioner Major changes in Parole Board: 5-member, part-time board; first black is appointed
1955	Classification System created at TSP The name of the Department of Institutions is changed to the Department of Correction (DOC) State Training Schools for boys are renamed State Vocation Training Schools for White Boys (Jordonia) and Colored Boys (Pikeville)	1965 Juvenile institutions are desegregated and classified by age Intensive Treatment Rehabilitation Center for juveniles opens in Nashville near "Jordonia," operated by the Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. State prison school is established and accredited Mining operations at Brushy Mountain abandoned due to safety problems
1956	Corporal punishment for juveniles is abolished (reinstated 1957)	
1957	Act establishes the Division of Juvenile Probation	1966 Cell blocks integrated at all adult institutions Corporal punishment abolished for adult offenders New Tennessee Prison for Women, Stewarts Lane, becomes operational. Former facility converted to Rehabilitation Center for males (day program operated by Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation)
1958	Statewide Juvenile Probation system becomes operational Maximum security building, including "electric chair," is built at TSP	
1959	Governor Buford Ellington Commissioner Keith Hampton	
1960	William Tines is the last person executed in the State of Tennessee prior to the Furman Decision	1967 Governor Buford Ellington Commissioner Harry S. Avery DOC Central Office moved to Doctor's Building Work Release is established at Shelby County Penal Farm Division of Religious Services is created Correctional Rehabilitation Center (CRC) in Nashville opens
1961	Division of Adult Probation and Parole are established legislatively Tennessee Youth Center in Joelton founded as a forestry camp for boys	
1963	Governor Frank G. Clement Commissioner Harry S. Avery Act establishes Division of Youth	



1966—Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex



1966—Tennessee State Penitentiary—Women's Unit

1968	Treatment services initiated at TSP Vocational Rehabilitation Unit opened		Turney Center for Youthful Offenders in Only became operational; facility named after Governor Peter Turney, the first governor to advocate habilitation of prisoners and housing juvenile offenders separate from adult offenders
1969	Commissioner Lake F. Russell Opportunity House, Inc., becomes operational (a half-way house for men in Nashville) 3 adult institutions are reclassified: Brushy to maximum security; TSP to medium and Fort Pillow (now named Cold Creek Correctional Facility) to minimum	1972	State Vocational Training School for Girls in Nashville reverts to a reception and diagnostic center for juveniles 12-14 year old female offenders transferred to TYDC, making it the first co-educational juvenile correctional institution in state's history
1970	Division of Rehabilitative Services is created legislatively Prisoner Rehabilitation Act of 1970 provides for adult work release Act passes for relieving Commissioner of DOC as chair Pardons and Paroles Board; Chairman elected by Board members DOC Central Office moved to Andrew Jackson State Office Building MTSU Diagnostic Center contracted for juvenile offender psychological testing Interstate Compact established		State Vocational Training School for girls in Tullahoma renamed Highland Rim School for Girls Act reformulates three-member Board of Pardons and Paroles; Chairman appointed by the Governor; members will now be full time professionals appointed by the Governor Labor problems at Brushy lead to closure of that institution Intensive Treatment Rehabilitation Center for juveniles closed
1971	Governor Winfield Dunn Commissioner Mark Luttrell Work Release Center opened in Chattanooga Tennessee Youth Development Center (TYDC) founded in Somerville State Vocational Training School for Boys in Pikeville renamed James M. Taft Youth Center; State Vocational Training School for Boys in Jordonville renamed Spencer Youth Center	1973	June 29, the U.S. Supreme Court rules on <u>Furman vs Georgia</u> declaring death penalty unconstitutional; inmates under sentence of death were commuted to life in prison Mandatory death sentence imposed for those convicted of first degree murder DOC Central Office moved to First American Center Work Release Unit opened in Nashville (at the old Spencer ITC Unit)



1970—Turney Center and Industrial Prison



1970—Tennessee Prison for Women

1974	<p>Group Homes for juveniles opened in Nashville and Memphis</p> <p>Tennessee Corrections Institute (TCI) established to train DOC employees</p> <p>Mandatory Death Sentence Act of 1973 found unconstitutional</p> <p>Intensive Treatment Unit created at Spencer Youth Center</p> <p>Department embraces regional prison concept and commences construction on new prisons in Memphis and Morristown. The Morristown prison construction was stopped before completion because of community opposition</p>	<p>security facility</p> <p>WYDC received Governor's Award for Design Excellence</p> <p>"Sit-down" strike by inmates caused temporary lock-down at Brushy Mountain</p> <p>The department is authorized to establish residential restitution centers</p>
1975	<p>Governor Ray Blanton</p> <p>Commissioner Herman Yeatman</p> <p>C. Murray Henderson replaces Yeatman as Commissioner</p> <p>Procedure changed and Governor appointed a new Chairman to Pardons and Paroles Board</p> <p>TYDC renamed John S. Wilder Youth Development Center (WYDC)</p> <p>Bars removed from windows at Highland Rim</p> <p>Inmate riot at TSP</p>	<p>1977 10 Group Homes for juveniles approved through LEAA grant</p> <p>Boys' institutions reclassified: under 14 years - Wilder; 14-18 year old property offenders - Spencer; 14-18 year old repeat offenders and those who commit a crime against persons - Taft; TYC still has voluntary commitments</p> <p>DeBerry Correctional Institute for Special Needs Offenders opens</p> <p>DOC is empowered to set up demonstration projects involving inmate labor and private industry to be known as Tennessee Restitution Industries</p> <p>U.S. Supreme Court rules that death penalty is constitutional, and death penalty is reinstated in Tennessee</p>
1976	<p>U. S. Supreme Court rules Georgia's death penalty constitutional. Several states follow suit, modeling their efforts after Georgia's.</p> <p>Brushy Mountain reopened</p> <p>Memphis Correctional Center opened (MCC)</p> <p>Ft. Pillow (now Cold Creek Correctional Facility) is reclassified as medium</p>	<p>1978 7 Group Homes became operational: Knoxville, Lebanon, Oak Ridge, Elizabethton, 2 in Memphis, and the Inman Group Home in Tullahoma)</p> <p>WYDC stopped receiving girls; all girls are received at and committed to Highland Rim</p> <p>Board of Pardons expands its membership to five</p> <p>Corporal punishment is abolished in juvenile institutions; the "cells" at Spencer closed</p>

College programs are set up at Brushy for Roane State Community College and Lincoln Memorial University

- 1979** Governor Lamar Alexander
Commissioner Harold B. Bradley
DOC Central Office moved to State Office Building
Nashville Work Release unit closed (old Intensive Treatment Center at Spencer) and merged with the Community Rehabilitation Center
Labor dispute at Taft promoted disturbance
Reorganization of the Department
Regional Prison at Cockrill Bend in Nashville opened (Wardens appointed at Bledsoe, Morgan, and Lake Counties Regional Prisons to open in 1980-81)
The computerized Offender Based State Correctional Information System (OBSCIS) becomes operational
Juvenile status offenders are released from institutions for placement in community-based programs or home
Act passes to separate the Board of Pardons and Paroles from DOC; BOP becomes a five-member autonomous unit
Class-X Crimes bill becomes effective
Wilder Youth Development Center receives certificate of Merit from UT-Martin
Extended furlough system abolished by legislature

Tennessee Reception and Guidance Center for Children is officially named as such

Five-year residency requirement for Commissioner of Correction is removed

Sale of prison-made goods expanded to include private, non-profit organizations

Three more group homes became operational: Morning Star, Madisonville and Bradley County

Fire at Oak Ridge Group Home temporarily closes down that home

Act passes prohibiting status offenders from being committed to DOC until after third adjudication

Commissioner is authorized to contract with local governments when prisons become overcrowded

The Department of Correction Supervision and Rehabilitation Fund is established

1980 Promulgated comprehensive set of policy and procedures which guide management of TDOC

1981 A volunteer prisoner work program for minimum risk prisoners is established

The County Correctional Incentive Act passes, with the Commissioner responsible for implementing

Implementation of the "Plan of the 1980s"

1982 The disbursement of funds for the Supervision and Rehabilitation Fund and Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund is transferred from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Correction

The department is required to undertake a study and report to the Joint Governmental Operations Committee on: (1) reorganizing and staffing the department, (2) increasing work opportunities for inmates, (3) improving performance and morale of correctional officers and other staff

East, Middle, or West. Administrators are appointed for each region.

The Division of Youth Services is abolished within DOC, and the Tennessee Department of Youth Development is created; all juvenile responsibility and functions are transferred from DOC

Riverbend Maximum Security Institution becomes operational

Sentencing Reform Act of 1989 is passed by the General Assembly

State and Local Correction Reform Act of 1989 provides mechanism for the State to reimburse counties for housing felons

Wayne County Boot Camp (Special Alternative Incarceration Unit) begins operation

West Tennessee High Security Facility becomes operational

Northeast Correctional Center becomes operational

South Central Correctional Center becomes operational under the management of Corrections Corporation of America in March. This facility is the test case for privatization of prison operations in Tennessee

Wayne County Boot Camp begins accepting offenders up to 35 years of age

Lois M. DeBerry Special Needs Facility becomes operational in June replacing DeBerry Correctional Institute

1983 Commissioner William Long

Federal Court appoints a Master to oversee correction of unconstitutional conditions that were found to exist in Grubbs vs Bradley

Highland Rim School for Girls closed and Spencer Youth Center becomes coed the summer of 1983

1984 Commissioner Ernest Pelegrine

Tennessee Correction Academy becomes operational at site of former Highland Rim School for Girls

1985 Commissioner Stephen H. Norris

Prison riots throughout system during the summer months, causing millions of dollars in damage.

General Assembly holds First Extraordinary Session on Corrections in late 1985, resulting in many significant changes through the Comprehensive Corrections Improvement Act of 1985: Select Oversight Committee on Corrections is established; Community Corrections programs are initiated; random drug testing of inmates begins; Sentencing Commission is established.

1987 Governor Ned R. McWherter

1989 Commissioner W. Jeff Reynolds

Regional concept is born. TDOC facilities fall under one of three regions,

1990

1991

1992



DeBerry Correccional Institute

Tennessee Offender Management Information System (TOMIS) implemented

Northwest Correctional Center becomes operational in May

Tennessee State Penitentiary closes in June

1993 Department of Correction released from Grubbs suit; required to report on health services for one year; permanent injunction entered prohibiting TDOC to house inmates in the old Tennessee State Penitentiary

1994 Funding was approved to add 1,000 beds to prison system

The Department of Correction's final two institutions passed their American Correctional Association accreditation audits. This made the department the

first adult correctional system in the United States to have all of its programs nationally accredited.

1995 Governor Don Sundquist

Commissioner Donal Campbell

Major departmental reorganization; regional concept was abolished

1996 Tennessee Correctional Work Center in Nashville opened (300 beds)

Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary celebrates 100 years

Victims' Offender Information Caller Emissary (VOICE) system goes on line

DOC and other state departments established a presence on the World Wide Web

Construction began on 1536 medium security beds in Lauderdale County, adjacent to West Tennessee High Security Facility

Funding was approved for new prison (\$54 million)

10th Anniversary of Community Corrections Program

1997 Determinate Release legislation enacted; all one and two year felons to be released to probation on their release eligibility date unless opposed by sentencing court, etc.

Public Chapter 222 created a special technical violator unit for probation offenders committed to TDOC to be placed, at the department's discretion, in an alternative sentencing program without age and program restriction

Creation of Sex Offender Treatment Board and Provider Network and DNA testing of all sex offenders initiated as required by legislation

Public Chapter 457 required applicants for out-of-state probation or parole to enroll or complete a mental health program if convicted of certain violent crimes

Legislation passed in 1997 that established the Tennessee Internet Crime Information Center (TCIC). The Center will provide online registries of sex offenders, missing children, and out-of-state parole and probation supervision

Eight institutions were consolidated into four correctional complexes, each

operating under a single administrative structure

Departmental management was restructured, and a program planning section created

Educational programming in institutions was restructured

TDOC entered into contract with Hardeman County to house 1500 adult male medium security offenders at the Hardeman County Correctional Center (HCCC), managed by Corrections Corporation of America

Facility expansions at Wayne County Boot Camp, Tennessee Prison for Women, and DeBerry Special Needs Facility were completed adding 648 new beds to TDOC capacity

Minimum security annex at Mark Luttrell Reception Center was converted from male to female offenders; the male pre-release program was transferred to Cold Creek Correctional Facility

The Tennessee Correctional Work Center was closed upon the opening of beds at the Wayne County expansion and completion of renovations at MLRC's annex

Knoxville Community Service Center and Chattanooga Community Service Center began phasing down operations for early 1998 closure due to cost of operation and availability of more cost efficient minimum custody beds at other TDOC institutions. KCSC's pre-release program was relocated to Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex and Northeast Correctional Complex

Legislation was introduced during the 100th General Assembly in 1997 to allow expanded privatization of prison operations; Legislation was deferred until the following session

Over 1,925,400 hours of community service work were completed by inmates, probationers, and community correction offenders at an estimated savings to the public of \$9,146,056.00; figure represents an increase of over 17 percent above community service work performed in 1996

TDOC's drug and alcohol testing program was greatly expanded in response to federal and state efforts to combat drug abuse related crime

The General Assembly approves a bill allowing members of a victim's immediate family to witness an execution in an area separate from other witnesses or through a closed circuit television system

The Governor signs into law legislation requiring any inmate who is less than 21 years of age to undergo HIV testing during TDOC classification with or without the inmate's consent unless the inmate has been previously tested upon arrest for certain sexual offenses

1998 Tennessee's state felon population increases to more than 21 thousand, including those housed in local jails. TDOC facilities hold more than 16 thousand

The department contracts with Hardeman County for an additional 512 beds at the Hardeman County Correctional Facility

The department begins a medical copayment program requiring inmates to pay \$3 for a self-initiated sick call visit to the health care staff

Legislation to expand privatization of prison operations is withdrawn from consideration

The legislature establishes lethal injection as the method of execution for any person, who commits an offense on or after January 1, 1999, for which such person is sentenced to the punishment of death.

Public Chapter 1028 requires all persons convicted of any felony offense on or after July 1, 1998, to provide a biological specimen for DNA analysis

Legislation passed to transfer the duties and responsibilities relating to probation services and community grant programs from the TDOC to the Board of Paroles. The act also changes the name of the Board of Paroles to the Board of Probation and Parole.

1999 The department is recognized nationally for its cost savings measures in recycling. The department wins the Environmental Protection Agency's National Partnership Award for its recycling efforts.

As a response to increasing gang activity within the prison population, the department opens the first Security Threat Group unit at Southeastern Tennessee State Regional Correctional Facility

Tennessee's felon population tops 22 thousand

Mark Luttrell Reception Center in Memphis is fully converted to a female facility and renamed the Mark Luttrell Correctional Center

Construction of 1536 medium security beds adjacent to the West Tennessee High Security Facility in Henning is completed as the Cold Creek Correctional Facility, formerly Fort Pillow Prison and Farm is closed. Along with the minimum security annex at Cold Creek, the three facilities are combined under one administrative structure and renamed the West Tennessee State Penitentiary.

2000s

2000 The department installs external heart defibrillators in all facilities for the benefit of inmates, staff, and visitors. The devices are used on two inmates in the first six months, and credited with helping save their lives.

Community work crews continue to provide valuable savings to local governments and non-profit organizations. Annually, more than 1,000 offenders provide an average of nearly 1.4 million hours of labor for estimated savings of approximately seven million dollars to those groups.

The department is honored with its second Environmental Protection Agency's National Energy Partnership Award

The Governor signs legislation making lethal injection, rather than electrocution, the standard method of

execution for any person sentenced to death. An inmate under the sentence of death for an offense committed prior to January 1, 1999, will be executed by lethal injection unless the inmate waives his/her right to be executed by that method. If waived, the method of execution would be by electrocution.

Also becoming law is an act adding to the list of authorized witnesses for an execution. The additions may include one member of the defense counsel chosen by the condemned person and the Attorney General and Reporter, or his or her designee.

The first execution of a death row inmate in 40 years. Robert Glen Coe is the first to be executed in Tennessee by means of lethal injection for the aggravated kidnapping, aggravated rape, and murder of eight year old Carrie Ann Medlin.

Tennessee's felon population levels off, showing a percentage decline overall. TDOC facilities hold approximately 17 thousand inmates with another 5,500 in local jails.

The Tennessee Volunteer Resource Board is created by the legislature. The new board expands the functions of the prior volunteer advisory board to include parolees as well as inmates and probationers.

2001 An expansion phase is completed at the Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville, increasing the facility to 775 beds

Director of Pre-Release and Transition Services appointed by Commissioner of Correction to coordinate statewide pre-release programming

Implementation of a statewide contract to provide health care for the State's inmate population

Completed double celling at South Central Correctional Facility, expanding capacity by 170 beds

2002 Whiteville Correctional Facility opens in West Tennessee, creating an additional 1,536 medium security beds for housing male inmates. The facility is managed by CCA

Tennessee's Felony Offender Information Lookup, FOIL, was launched on October 31st. The new on-line feature allows the public to search for an inmate's location, inmate number and early release date.

State launches the new pre-release program, "Tennessee Bridges", with a 1 million dollar federal grant awarded to the Board of Probation and Parole and the Department of Correction

Governor Phil Bredesen appoints former U.S. Attorney, Quenton I. White, as the new Commissioner of Correction

2003 Phil Bredesen took office as Tennessee's 48th Governor.

Commissioner appoints a full-time Victim's Notification Coordinator in an effort to work more diligently with those directly impacted by crime

Community work crews pass the 10 million hour mark. The work crew program was re-organized in 1996. In October of this year, those crews had

completed more than 10 million hours of community service for city and county governments as well as non-profits across the state, saving millions of taxpayer dollars.

Plans are finalized to expand the Morgan County Correctional Complex, adding 838 beds and nearly 138 new jobs. Construction is expected to begin on the project in the fall of 2004. Inmates from the century old Brushy Mountain Penitentiary will be transferred to the new facility once it's complete.

2004 In September, the Middle Tennessee Correctional Complex officially changed its name to the Charles Bass Correctional Complex

Established and dedicated a permanent memorial at the Tennessee Correction Academy to fallen correctional personnel

In November, the Tennessee Department of Correction held the inaugural Tennessee Criminal Justice Summit

In February 2004, kicked off the Year of the Correctional Employee Campaign

Recreation of the Division of Rehabilitative Services

2005 On September 8, 2005, Governor Bredesen appointed George M. Little, veteran correction administrator for the state, as the new Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Correction

Successfully delivered the department's first Victim Awareness training workshop



2005—Fallen Employee Memorial

Correctional Officer Wayne Morgan was fatally wounded in inmates' escape from Roane County Courthouse

West Tennessee State Penitentiary collaborated with the University of Tennessee at Martin to initiate a satellite campus at the penitentiary's training center to provide continuing education for staff and the community

Inmate work crews performed over 1,255,281 hours of community service work

Officially opened a museum at the West Tennessee State Penitentiary

Opening of two transition centers in the Nashville area, one for men and one for women

Due to the increased demand for prison beds and the need to limit excessive costs, the TDOC began building a new facility in Morgan County. This facility

will replace the aging Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex.

Public Chapter 168 required the department to report within 10 days the death of an inmate in a TDOC facility to the state senator and state representative representing the inmate based upon the inmate's home address in the state prior to being placed in custody.

Drug dog teams were added to help reduce the introduction of contraband into facilities

2006

Implemented two transition communities within the prisons which are designed to gradually prepare offenders to live successfully in the free world

Broke ground on the Morgan County Correctional Complex expansion

Implemented a pilot program at Northeast Correctional Complex requiring all inmates who are expiring their sentences to complete pre-release programming prior to release

June 28th, Sedley Alley was put to death by lethal injection for the crime of Murder 1. He had also received a sentence of 40 years for aggravated kidnapping and rape.

Fully implemented a sexual predator and victim predictor evaluation process for all inmates

Implemented a new Workplace Harrassment training program

Began implementing a smoke-free environment at our correctional facilities

Random employee drug testing began as a measure to reduce the threat of introduction of contraband into facilities and to create a safer workplace

The average daily cost to house an inmate was \$58.91 or approximately \$21,502.15 annually.

Creation of parole technical violator center at Wayne County Boot Camp

Criminal Justice Summits held

Implemented a smoke-free environment at each of the correctional facilities

The General Assembly approved legislation requiring the TDOC to award inmates with 60 days of sentence reduction credits for successfully receiving a GED, high school diploma, college degree, or a vocational education diploma after July 1, 2006. Offenders convicted of certain violent offenses would not be eligible for the credits.

2007

The Tennessee Department of Correction's Internal Affairs division began an intensive investigation in 2007 to capture escaped inmates. Operation Clean Sweep launched in 2007 with TDOC agents tracking down dozens of escapees, some had been missing for more than 25 years.

Legislature amended the 2006 law to provide retroactive sentence reduction credits for inmates who received their educational or vocational diplomas prior to July 1, 2006.

Effective July 1st, smoking is prohibited in facilities owned or operated by the TDOC.

Public Chapter 594 established the "Crooks with Guns" law that created new gun-related offenses and enhanced the sentences for possession of a firearm with the intent to go armed during the commission or attempt to commit certain offenses now defined as a dangerous felony.

2008

The average daily cost to house in inmate was \$63.90.

Legislation passed prohibiting any sex offender in the custody of the TDOC, local government, or private contractor from being assigned to work release or a work crew that permitted the offender to go out into the community with or without supervision.

The Governor signed into law legislation authorizing the commissioner to enter into agreements with local governments for the transfer of non-violent TDOC inmates to local custody to participate in pre-release programs. Inmates must be recommended for parole or within one

year of sentence expiration for program eligibility.

2009 Completed the upgrade of the Morgan County Correctional Complex to a state-of-the-art, maximum security prison

Completed the phase down and closing of the Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex

The General Assembly approved legislation requiring the TDOC and the Board of Probation and Parole to develop an individual treatment and supervision plan for each offender using a validated instrument to evaluate the individual risks and needs for each offender in custody or under supervision to enhance successful re-entry into the community.

2010 Gayle Ray was appointed Commissioner of the TDOC effective January 1 by Governor Phil Bredesen.

Governor Bredesen established the autonomous Criminal Justice Coordinating Council via Executive

Order February 10th. The 13-member council is charged with collaborating with and coordinating the services of state and local government agencies and non-governmental entities in the criminal justice system to increase public safety.

Legislation passed authorizing TDOC to enter into community-based contracts with non-profit organizations for operation of transitional facilities to aid in the re-entry of offenders to the community. The department may contract for 150 beds statewide. Inmates within one year of release for parole supervision or expiration of their sentence are eligible for placement. Sex offenders will not be eligible.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new state-of-the-art Bledsoe County Correctional Complex in Pikeville. Construction is expected to be completed in September 2012.

Beginning June 1, 2010, the time for carrying out capital punishment sentences will be moved from 1:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.



2009—Morgan County Correctional Complex



2009—Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex Closes



2010—Bledsoe County Correctional Complex Groundbreaking Ceremony